

# The Christian Community

MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

National Coordinator (Lenker)  
Revd Tom Ravetz

January, 2024

Dear Friends,

When The Christian Community was founded in 1922, the priesthood was given the responsibility of ensuring that the rituals were celebrated in a way that reflected the founding intentions of the community. This means that we keep under review what was written down at the time, how the founders remembered the first celebrations of the rituals, and how our practices have evolved since the founding. Along with these important sources, we also deepen our understanding of the rituals, and this gives us another criterion for judging what is right. While all priests share this responsibility, it is the role of the International Leadership to make any changes that they feel are necessary.

Since The Christian Community was founded, the way in which the Offering should begin has been a question.

Our current practice is that the celebrant moves from the centre of the altar to the right for the first prayer, then takes the cup from the centre of the altar and moves it to the right for the second prayer, where the water and wine are poured into the cup. Finally, the celebrant takes the cup to the centre and the book is brought to the centre where it is placed to the right of the cup. The rest of the Offering is held in the centre of the altar, as are the Transubstantiation and Communion, with the book moved to either side of the cup.

Having lived with this question for many years and having consulted the above sources, as well as holding lengthy consultation within the priests' circle, the International Leadership has decided that the cup should remain in the centre of the altar throughout the Offering. The first prayer will be said as it is now. However, when the time comes for the wine and water to be poured into the cup, the celebrant will move to the centre of the altar and remain there; the book will be brought into the centre and then the other server will bring the wine and water to the centre where the celebrant will pour them into the cup.

Later, the incense and censer will also be brought into the centre of the altar for the celebrant to apply the incense.

The change will take effect worldwide from Sunday, 4th February. We will be preparing for this with the servers in the coming weeks.

With best wishes,

